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EXTRAORDINARY

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DISPATCHES, of which the following are Copies and Extracts, have been received from Lieutenant-Colonel Craufurd, by the Right Honorable Lord Grenville, His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Baumholder, June 1, 1796.

My Lord,

I Have the Honor to inform your Lordship that Hostilities commenced Yesterday Morning at Half an Hour past Ten o'Clock. The Enemy attacked the Village of Walhausen, situated near the Source of the Nahe, and occupied by the Austrians as an Advanced Post; but they were repulsed, losing from Sixty to Seventy killed, and near Four Hundred taken Prisoners.

The Austrian General Schellenberg took Possession at the same Time of Kern, upon the Nahe. The Enemy made several unsuccessful Efforts to dislodge him from that Post, and sustained a considerable Loss.

To-Day a Part of the Austrian Husars, and the Salkbourg Light Infantry, attacked and defeated One of the Enemy's Posts near Steinberg, towards the Source of the Blifs. There have been other trifling Skirmishes that are not worth noticing, in all which the Austrians have had the Advantage. In the Courie of Yesterday and To-Day, their Loss has been Four Officers and between Seventy and Eighty Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates.

I have the Honor to be, &c. &c. &c.

C. CRAUFURD.

Ober Muschel, June 6, 1796.

ON the 4th and 5th Reports were received from Prince Ferdinand of Wirtemberg, who commanded the Corps upon the Sieg: They stated in Substance as follows.

The Two Divisions of the Enemy's Troops that were in the Neighbourhood of Dusseldorf, being considerably reinforced from their Army of the North,

marched towards the Sieg, and, after some severe Skirmishes, forced the Prince of Wirtemberg's Advanced Posts to quit that River on the 1st. His Serene Highness then took a Position at Crobach, near Haekenburg, having an Advanced Guard at Altkirchen.

On the 3d the Enemy attacked the Post of Altkirchen, and carried it with great Loss, after experiencing the most obstinate Resistance that it was possible to make. Nothing could surpass the Bravery displayed by the Austrian Troops, but they were obliged to yield to the great Superiority of Numbers, the Enemy having brought the principal Part of the Force which they had on the Right Bank of the Rhine against that one Point.

Head Quarters, Hockheim, June 10, 1796.

My Lord,

I Have the Honor to inform your Lordship, that, on the 6th Instant, Prince Ferdinand of Wirtemberg, upon finding that the Enemy was manoeuvring to turn his Right Flank, retired from the Synbach Rivulet to the Lahn, and took a Position near Limburg, having a Corps upon his Left at Nassau, and one upon his Right at Weilberg; the latter detached Five Squadrons of Light Cavalry to the Neighbourhood of Wetzlar, for the Purpose of observing the Enemy's Movements on that Side. The first Reinforcements that were sent to the Prince of Wirtemberg joined him on the 7th. Several other Troops have since arrived in the Position of the Lahn, and the further Progress of the Enemy is effectually stopped by the active and energetic Measures which the Archduke has employed upon this important Occasion.

General Jourdan, immediately after the Success of General Kleber against the Prince of Wirtemberg, threw Bridges over the Rhine at Neuwied, and he is assembling, with the utmost Diligence, the principal Part of his Army on the Right Bank of the Lahn. His first Intention evidently was to advance to Frackfort; but, as the Archduke has completely



joined him in that Project, he seems now to confine his Views to the Siege of Ehrenbreitstein, which Fortrefs he has invested. The Archduke is now marching against him with his Main Army, having left a considerable Corps under General Mercantin in the Position behind the Seltz Rivulet between Mayence and Alzey. His Royal Highness's Head Quarters were moved, on the 6th Instant, from Obermüschel to Wonsheim, on the Road from Creutzenach to Alzey; on the 8th to Nider Ulm, and on the 9th to this Place, where they remain To-day. All that Part of his Army, which is destined to act immediately against General Jourdan, has passed the Rhine at Mayence, and is advancing towards the Enemy, full of Spirits and confident of Victory.

Marshal Wurmer has detached to the Upper Rhine a sufficient Number of Troops to put his Left Flank in Security against any Attempts which General Moreau might now be induced to make on that Side, and his Excellency still maintains a Position, with a Part of his Army, on the Left Bank of the Rhine, from Reh Hutte to Franckenthal, the Left of which is covered by the lower Part of the Rehbach Rivulet, and the Front and Right by the Canal called the Flotbach, that intersects the Plain from the Rehbach to Franckenthal, and runs from thence through Part of the Wood of Frisenheim into the Rhine.

I hope soon to have the Honour of transmitting to your Lordship Accounts of His Royal Highness's Success against General Jourdan, and the consequent Relief of Ehrenbreitstein; Events, which the vigorous offensive Measures that will be immediately pursued in that Quarter seem to insure.

I have the Honour to be, &c. &c.

C. CRAUFURD.

Head Quarters of His Royal Highness the Archduke Charles of Austria, Hackenbourg, June 18, 1796.

I HAVE the Honor to inform your Lordship, that the Archduke's Head Quarters were moved from Hocheim to Schwalbach, near Koningstein, on the 11th Instant, to Hesse Homburg on the 12th, and to Graffen Wisbach the 13th, where they remained the 14th; on which Day His Royal Highness completed the necessary Arrangements for the Defence of the Lahn, between Braunsfels and the Rhine, which chiefly consisted in posting a large Corps at Limbourg, with Two others of inferior Force near Nassau and Weilburg. On the 14th a considerable Corps, under the Command of Lieutenant-General Werneck, arrived at Wetzlar, the Saxons at Butzbach, nearly South of Wetzlar. Another strong Column, commanded by General Kray, marched the same Day to the Neighbourhood of Braunsfels, and a Partisan Corps pushed across the Lahn to Koningberg, which lies between Gießen and Herborn on the Dille.

The River Dille formed the natural Left Flank to the Enemy's Line of Defence, which was covered on the Right by the Rhine; and as the Hills on the Right Bank of the Dille are very steep, woody, and difficult of Access, it was essential for the Enemy to occupy them, but more especially so, to take the Position between Hermanstein on that River and Altenbourg on the Lahn, as the Austrians would then have been completely prevented from crossing at Wetzlar, and obliged to manœuvre, by Gießen, towards Herborn and Dielenburg.

The Archduke ordered General Werneck to push his Advanced Posts across the Lahn and the Dille at Wetzlar on the 14th, and to pass, on the 15th, with his whole Corps; to support which Manœuvre the Saxons were directed to advance to Wetzlar

the same Day, and General Kray to occupy the Heights between Braunsfels and Leuhn on the Lahn. The French General Le Fevre was in March with a large Corps for the same Object at the same Time. The Heads of his Columns attacked General Werneck's Advanced Guard, which, after making a very long and most obstinate Resistance, was obliged to yield to the great Superiority of Numbers. The Enemy then occupied the above-mentioned Position, with their Right to the Lahn and their Left to the Dille, and began a severe Cannonade upon the Austrians, who, though at the Foot of the Heights with the Rivers close in their Rear, had formed again, and stood firm. His Royal Highness the Archduke having arrived just as the Advanced Guard was retiring, ordered the Saxons to accelerate their March, and particularly their Cavalry to advance with as much Expedition as possible. His Royal Highness likewise ordered that Part of General Werneck's Corps, which had remained in Reserve on the Left Bank of the Lahn, to join their Advanced Guard, and left the Detachments on the Left opposite Altenbourg, and on the Right at Aslar near Hermanstein, as they had been at first posted, in order to secure the Flanks. In this very critical Position His Royal Highness remained, answering the Enemy's Cannonade from a Battery of Twelve-Pounders, and determined to attack as soon as the Head of the Saxon Column should have passed Wetzlar.

The Position that General Le Fevre occupied, was composed of a Range of Heights, which, from the broken Ground in their Front, are difficult of Access. There was a projecting Point of a Wood that formed upon the Face of these Heights a salient Angle to the rest of his Line; and this Wood, returning through the Centre of the Position, extended to the Right and Left behind each Wing, to the Lahn and the Dille.

This salient Point was strongly occupied with Infantry, as well as the Heights and Village of Altenbourg, and on the Height above Hermanstein the principal Part of the Cavalry was formed, being supported by Infantry posted in the Wood in their Rear, the Artillery was distributed upon the Spots most favourable for raking the Face of the Position. In this Order, General Le Fevre waited the Arrival of the rest of his Corps; had it come up before the Archduke attacked, the Austrians must have retired across the Lahn at Wetzlar. His Royal Highness, perfectly aware of this Circumstance, resolved not to delay his Attack a Moment after the Saxon Cavalry should have arrived: This did not happen till Seven in the Evening, and the Disposition was then made in general as follows: Three Squadrons of the Austrian Cavalry, Regiment of Carachy, supported by that of Nassau, were ordered to charge the Left, and the Saxon Cavalry the Front of the Heights above Hermanstein, while the Austrian Grenadiers attacked the the Enemy's Center in the Wood, the Left Wing was kept back. The Regiment of Carachy advanced through the hollow Ways and Ravines, and, when arrived at the Top of the Height, charged the Enemy with a Degree of Intrepidity that must do them immortal Honor; but as they were very much broken by the extreme Badness of the Ground, and as the French Cavalry was numerous and drawn up in perfect Order to receive them, they were repulsed. The Regiment of Nassau had, in the mean Time, reached the Summit and formed; they therefore received the Regiment of Carachy, which rallied under their Protection, charged the Enemy again with Part of the Regiment of Nassau on their Flanks, and Part as a Second Line, and, after a regular Shock as could take Place, they proved victorious.

ous. This happened before the Saxon Cavalry had reached their Point of Attack, or the Grenadiers had arrived at the Wood; and the Enemy, finding themselves taken in Flank, and most vigorously pursued, retired; their first Line with great Precipitation abandoning the salient Point of their Center, and their defeated Cavalry threw itself in Disorder into the Wood behind their Infantry. Part of the Regiments of Carachy and Nassau followed them, cut to Pieces a Battalion which had formed where the Road leading from Wetzlar to Greiffenstein enters the Wood, and took several Pieces of Cannon; but upon endeavouring to continue the Pursuit still further, they were received by the Second Line of French Infantry, who gave them a severe Fire, and obliged them to return out of the Wood to form again. However, they brought off all the Cannon and Ammunition Waggon that they had taken. The Enemy still kept the Heights of Altenbourg, their Line extending from thence towards Alstedon on the Dille.

The Austrian Grenadiers now attacked and defeated the French Infantry in the Wood.

In the Rear of the Enemy's Left Flank, at the Distance of about Two English Miles, lay the Village of Barghausen on the Dille. In the Vicinity of that Village the Wood retires from the Dille in the Form of a Half-Circle, leaving a considerable Space of open Ground; through this the Road, by which the Left of General Le Fevre's Corps was obliged to retreat, passes and enters the Wood again over an Height that affords an excellent Position for Infantry, not only from being so immediately on the Edge of the Wood, but more especially as the Foot of it is covered, in the greatest Part of its Extent, by a Ravine that is very difficult to cross.

It was on this Height that the Enemy had formed Three Battalions, with a Battery of Artillery, to receive their Troops that had been defeated by the Austrian Cavalry and Grenadiers; and, at the same Time, finding that Victory was declared in Favour of the Austrians, they retired their Right from the Heights of Altenbourg, forming the Troops that had occupied that Wing of the Position in the thick Wood which was immediately in their Rear. Four Squadrons of Saxon Cavalry, as if determined to emulate the exemplary Conduct of the Imperial Troops, together with a Squadron of the Regiment of Carachy, advanced through that Part of the Wood which had been cleared by the Grenadiers, and, without waiting for further Support, and not accompanied either by Cannon or Infantry, defiled along the Road, and scrambled through the Ravine under the Enemy's Fire, formed, and attacked the Height which I have just described: After suffering great Loss they broke the Three Battalions, cut down every Man who could not save himself by Flight in the Wood, and took the Cannon.

The Night now came on, and put an End to this very brilliant Affair. Nothing could surpass the Steadiness and Intrepidity with which the Austrian and Saxon Troops executed His Royal Highness's masterly and decisive Manœuvres.

The Loss of the Austrians and Saxons amounted to about Five Hundred Men, including several Officers; that of the French, judging from the Number left dead on the Field, and from the Accounts given by Deserters and Prisoners, and by the Inhabitants of the Country through which they passed in their Retreat, must have been very great. It is reported that General Le Fevre, who commanded in Person, was wounded badly in the Arm.

Having failed in his Attempt to make himself Master of this important Position, General Jourdan determined to raise the Blockade of Ehrenbreitstein, and recross the Rhine. Four of the Six Divisions

which composed his Army have directed their March towards Neuweid, the Two others towards Siegburg, Cologne and Duffeldorf.

On the 16th the Archduke marched in pursuit of General Le Fevre to Greiffenstein, where he was joined by General Kray, who had crossed the Lahn that Morning at Leuhn.

On the 17th His Royal Highness marched to Randerodt; the Advanced Guard pushing on to Altenkirchen, and on the 18th to Hackenbourg. The Corps at Limbourg, Nassau and Weilburg crossed the Lahn, and pursued General Jourdan by Montabauer and Trierdorf, whilst the Partisan Corps on the Right advanced to the Sieg. But notwithstanding the utmost Diligence has been made use of by the Austrians, no Affair of Consequence has taken Place since the 15th, as the Enemy have retired on all Sides, with the utmost Precipitation.

Intelligence is just received that Marshal Wurmser's Posts in the Front of Mannheim were attacked on the 14th Instant, and that his Excellency defeated the Enemy, and took from them several Canon

Head Quarters of His Royal Highness the Archduke Charles of Austria, Hackenbourg, June 20.

I Have the Honor to inform your Lordship, that His Royal Highness the Archduke's Advanced Corps, commanded by General Kray, marched Yesterday Morning at Day-break in Pursuit of that Part of the Enemy's Army, which, after uniting at Altenkirchen, was retiring, under the Orders of General Kleber, towards Siegburg on the Sieg; with the Intention of proceeding from thence to Cologne and Duffeldorf.

General Kleber found himself under the Necessity of halting that Day on the Heights that lay between Kirpen and Ukareth, on the great Road to Siegburg, in order to give Time for his Reserve, Ammunition and Baggage to pass the Sieg. He therefore occupied the very advantageous Position that these Heights afford, with about Twenty-four Thousand Men. The Front of both his Wings, as well as his Flanks, were covered by Two deep Ravines, that could only be passed at a very few Points. The Approach to his Center was about Three Hundred Yards broad, and ran along a Ridge that connected this Position with the Heights of Kirpen, and in which the Two Ravines above mentioned take their Source. At the Village of Kirpen there is another Range of advantageous Heights, parallel to those where the Enemy was posted; their Right (looking towards Ukareth) terminates in a deep Ravine; their Left on a Plain opposite to the Enemy's Center. This Plain is bounded on its Left by a small Wood that extends towards the Ravine, which covered the Enemy's Right Wing, leaving the Approach to their Center close on its Right. From this Wood a long Range of Inclosures and small Copses, intermixed with Two Villages and several scattered Houses, extend in a parallel Direction to the Right of the Enemy's Position, nearly on a Line with the Heights of Kirpen.

On the Altenkirchen Side of Kirpen, about Seven Hundred Yards from the latter, is a third Range of Heights, which take exactly the same Direction as those I have just described, their Right being covered by a deep Ravine, their Center and Left falling gradually into a Plain that is bounded by Kirpen, and by the Inclosures and small Villages above mentioned.

General Kray's Corps consisted of about Eleven Thousand Men, viz. Thirty-two Squadrons of Light Cavalry, Two Battalions of Grenadiers, Six Battalions of Fusileers, Two Battalions of Slavonian Light Infantry, with a Corps of Riflemen, and a proportionate